5. (Amended Once) A compound, salt or derivative according to claim 4 wherein B' is selected from: β-cyclohexylalanine, phenylglycine, homophenylalanine, norleucine, leucine, methionine, norvaline and β-cyclopropylalanine.

7. (Amended Once) A compound, salt or derivative according to claim 5 wherein C' is selected from: aspartic acid, glutamic acid, γ-carboxyglutamic acid, glutamine, asparagine, hydroxyproline, N-β-Aloc- diaminobutyric acid, thiazolylalanine, methionine sulfoxide, pyridylalanine and serine.

9. (Amended Once) A compound, salt or derivative according to claim 4, wherein the combination of amino acids B'C' is selected from:

Cha-Ser

Cha-Asp

Nle-Asp

Hof-Asp

Phg-Asp

Cha-Gln

Nle-Gln

Hof-Gln

Cha-Hyp

Nle-Hyp

Hof-Hyp

Nle-Ser.

10. (Amended Once) A compound, salt, or derivative according to claim 9 wherein Pep-OH is capable of binding HCV NS3 protease, in the absence of the C-terminal residues A'-B'-C'-D', and has an IC_{50} below 100μM in an inhibition assay.

11. (Amended Once) A compound, salt, or derivative according to claim 9 wherein Pep is a hexa-, penta- or tetra-peptide having formula (II) below:

F-E-D-C-B-A

wherein: A is an amino acid or amino acid analogue having an aliphatic side chain of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

B is an amino acid or analogue having a non-polar, acidic, or polar but uncharged side group;

C is an amino acid or amino acid analogue having a non-polar or acidic side chain;

D is an amino acid or amino acid analogue having a hydrophobic side group;

E together with F may be absent, but if present is an amino acid or amino acid analogue having an acidic side chain, non-polar side chain or polar, but uncharged side chain, or is a dicarboxylic acid containing up to 6 carbon atoms and lacking the amino group of acidic amino acids;

and F may be absent (either by itself, or together with E) but when present is an amino acid or analogue having an acidic side chain or is a dicarboxylic acid containing up to 6 carbon atoms.

14. (Amended Once) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound, salt or derivative according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

15. (Amended Once) Use of a compound, salt or derivative according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of hepatitis C or a related condition.

16. (Amended Once) A method of inhibiting HCV NS3 protease activity, and/or of treating or preventing hepatitis C or a related condition, comprising administering to a human or mammalian subject suffering from the condition a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a composition according to claim 14.

17. (New) The composition of claim 14, wherein

A' is proline,

B' is selected from the group consisting of: β-cyclohexylalanine, phenylglycine, homophenylalanine, norleucine, leucine, methionine, norvaline and β-cyclopropylalanine;

C' is selected from the group consisting of aspartic acid, glutamic acid, γ-carboxyglutamic acid, glutamine, asparagine, hydroxyproline, N-β-Aloc- diaminobutyric acid, thiazolylalanine, methionine sulfoxide, pyridylalanine and serine,

D' is Leu,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

18. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein B' is either phenylglycine or β-cyclopropylalanine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

19. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein C' is aspartic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

20. (New) The composition of claim 14, wherein

A' is proline,

D' is leucine,

B'C' is a combination selected from the group consisting of: Cha-Ser, Cha-Asp, Nle-Asp, Hof-Asp, Phg-Asp, Cha-Gln, Nle-Gln, Hof-Gln, Cha-Hyp, Nle-Hyp, Hof-Hyp, and Nle-Ser,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

21. (New) The composition of claim 20, wherein Pep is a hexa-, penta- or tetra-peptide having formula (II) below:

F-E-D-C-B-A

A is selected from: cysteine, aminobutyric acid, di- and tri-fluoro aminobutyric acid, norvaline, allylglycine and alanine;

B is selected from: glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glycine, methyl glycine, 2-amino butyric acid, alanine, isoleucine, valine, leucine, cysteine, naphthylalanine and β-cyclohexylalanine;

C is selected from: glutamic acid, aspartic acid, glycine, methyl glycine, 2-amino butyric acid, alanine, isoleucine, valine, leucine, cysteine, naphthylalanine and β -cyclohexylalanine;

D is selected from: methionine, isoleucine, leucine, norleucine, valine, methylvaline, phenylglycine, diphenylalanine, tyrosine, thienylalanine, and chlorophenylalanine;

E is selected from: glutamic acid, aspartic acid, phenylalanine, diphenylalanine, isoleucine, valine, tyrosine, 4-nitrophenylalanine, glutaric acid and succinic acid;

and F is selected from: aspartic acid, glutamic acid, glutaric acid and succinic acid

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

22. (New) A method of inhibiting HCV NS3 protease activity, and/or of treating or preventing hepatitis C or a related condition, comprising administering to a human or mammalian subject suffering from the condition a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.